

IPSWICH WATER DEPARTMENT

DROUGHT UPDATE

October 17, 2016

Drought Status: **DROUGHT EMERGENCY**

No outdoor watering

Limit all non-essential indoor water use - Use water more wisely!

Current Activities:

- The Water Treatment Plant went back into service on October 12th following completion of its semi-annual preventative maintenance shut-down. Concerns over available water at the wells prompted the Plant to restart earlier than projected. We continue to limit Plant operation to 2-3 days per week, while supplementing the supply with the five groundwater wells.
- The residential seasonal rate structure normally switches to lower winter rates on October 1st. This year, due to continued drought conditions, the Water Commissioners have extended the summer rate through October 31st. The winter rate will become effective November 1st. The full water ban will remain in place.
- Later this week, Ipswich will participate in a meeting to confront the drought crisis with concerned town officials from neighboring communities and state regulatory agencies. The discussion will include potential solutions to this issue including regional possibilities involving one or more towns working together, as well as possible infrastructure improvements to safeguard affected towns in the future and help rebuild our reservoir capacity.
- A Town-wide leak detection survey of the 93 mile water distribution system is underway. This is done on an annual basis to limit water lost to leaks. No major leaks have been discovered to date.
- The Water Department has received a declaration of water supply emergency from MassDEP. The declaration allows the Town to pump its wells in the Ipswich River Watershed beyond registered limits. This provides flexibility to manage our sources in the most effective manner. We have temporarily suspended our proposal to utilize recently installed test wells on the former Lynch property as we evaluate water quality results. To comply with the emergency declaration, Ipswich must continue the ban on all outdoor water use, as well as continue to urge all private well users to restrict their outdoor water use.
- Discounted rain barrels are still available to Ipswich residents at Corliss Bros. for \$45!

Emergency Declaration Clarification:

- The references in the document to endangerment of public health, safety or welfare are not in response to water quality, but water quantity. The water

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remains safe. The statements are to warn that public health will be compromised if the Town is unable to provide residents with a continuous supply of drinking water.

- "The Town shall have the authority to enforce these regulations through the assessment of penalties or the imposition of fines." This statement does not grant the Town authority to enforce the terms of the declaration beyond what is currently established by local regulations and by-laws.

REMINDER: Commercial customers are not exempt from drought requirements. Only those water use activities that are essential to conduct business are allowed.

Surface Water Supply

Reservoir Capacity, Total:	91,400,000 million gallons
Usable Storage, Total:	71,400,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/5/16:	20,300,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/12/16:	20,700,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/19/16:	17,800,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/26/16:	16,000,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/02/16:	14,000,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/09/16:	12,900,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/16/16:	11,500,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/23/16:	12,300,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/30/16:	10,500,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 10/7/16:	13,900,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 10/14/16:	15,600,000 million gallons

Due to the rain on the 9th Usable Storage on 10/10/16 had increased to 16,500,000 million gallons. With the Water Plant back in operation and no rain, storage has dropped back to 15,600,000.

Where did last week's water come from? 39% Reservoir Water
61% Well Water

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WARNING

More well water use means the amount of water supplied by Browns and Fellows Road Wells is increasing. These wells meet all primary drinking water standards, however, they do have elevated levels of Manganese.

System wide Manganese levels are currently below the health advisory levels.

With elevated Manganese levels, parents are advised to use bottled or treated water for their young children, in particular to make formula.

Winter Average Daily Demand:	0.8 million gallons per day (mgd)
Last Week's Average Daily Demand:	0.9 million gallons per day (mgd)
Current Average Daily Demand:	0.8 million gallons per day (mgd)

Days of Supply Remaining at current demand of 0.9 mgd: 17 - 70 days

Precipitation

2014 Total Precipitation Jan 1 - Aug 1:	29.36 inches
2015 Total Precipitation Jan 1 - Aug 1:	32.13 inches
2016 Total Precipitation Jan 1 - Aug 1:	18.24 inches

Total Precipitation Aug 1 - Aug 8:	0.20 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 9 - Aug 14:	1.05 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 15 - Aug 21:	0.90 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 22 - Aug 28:	0.00 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 29 - Sept 4:	0.00 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 5 - Sept 11:	0.54 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 12 - Sept 18:	0.30 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 19 - Sept 25:	0.20 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 26 - Oct 2:	1.46 inches
Total Precipitation Oct 3 - Oct 9:	1.85 inches
Total Precipitation Oct 10 - Oct 16:	0.00 inches

What is the Water Department doing?

- Asking the community to share their water saving tips! Visit www.ipswichma.gov and click "Community Voice" to share suggestions.

For more information visit:

www.ipswichma.gov

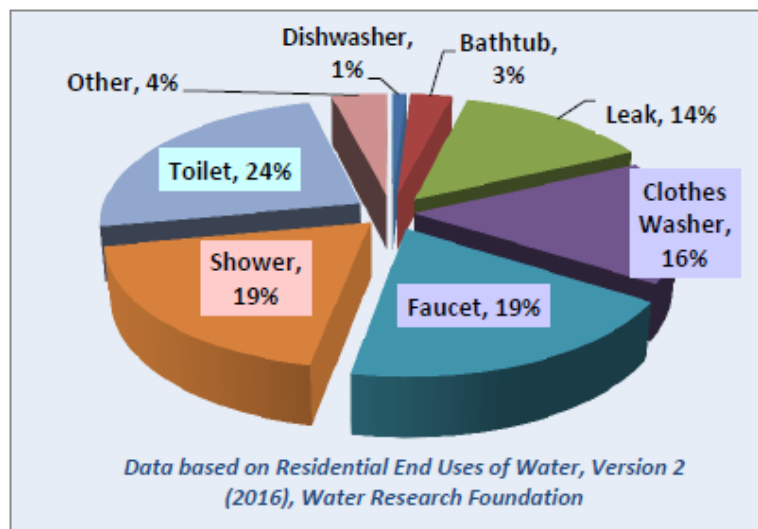
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- Increasing enforcement of the water ban. One warning is issued, a subsequent violation results in shut-off of water service
- Increasing use of well water
- Additional long term alternatives are being considered to augment our current sources
- The Water Department received permission to breach a beaver dam and conduct trapping in an area along Bull Brook (see 9/6/16 update). We have breached the dam and completed installation of a pond leveling device to ensure water flows uninterrupted to Bull Brook Reservoir.
- On September 13th, the Water Department hosted a meeting with local town and state officials to discuss current drought conditions impacting the region. Those in attendance included Secretary Matthew Beaton (EOEEA), Bethany Card (DEP), Representative Brad Hill, Senator Bruce Tarr and several others.

Start Saving Water Indoors!



Daily percent of indoor water use, per person,
(sample: approx. 700 homes, nationwide)

Fix a Leak: Small household leaks can add up to gallons of water lost every day.

Try the drip calculator to see how much water is being wasted:

<http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/public-affairs/public-information/dripcalculator.aspx>

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In the bathroom: Over half of all water use inside a home takes place here:

Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing teeth.

Showers use less water than baths, as long as you keep an eye on how long you've been lathering up!

In the kitchen: Big water savings to be achieved if you:

Plug up the sink or use a wash basin if washing dishes by hand.

Use a dishwasher; and when you do, make sure it's fully loaded!

While you're at it, scrape that plate instead of rinsing before loading it into the dishwasher.

Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.

Thaw in the refrigerator overnight rather than using a running tap of hot water.

Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.

In the laundry room: You can be clean AND green:

Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.

Tips courtesy of EPA WaterSense

The Town of Ipswich thanks you for making every drop count!

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Rain Barrel Sale!

Big discount!

\$45*

These barrels are

- 100% recycled
- Equipped with screw lid and spigot
- Made from certified food grade plastic
- Terra-cotta color
- Great size:
 - 50 gallon capacity
 - 36 inch height
 - 23 inch diameter
- Perfect for:
 - Car washing
 - Gardening
 - Irrigation



- Save money
- Conserve water
- Ease the drought

*Limited to one per customer

*Available while supplies last; only at Corliss Bros.

*Offer valid for Ipswich residents only (proof of residency is required)

Corliss Bros. Fall Hours

Sunday 9:30am—4:00pm

Monday through Saturday, 8:30am—5:00pm

Proudly sponsored by:

JACK'S
RAIN BARRELS



Corliss Bros.
INCORPORATED
Garden Center and Nursery